

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A self-ligating orthodontic bracket for coupling an archwire with a tooth, comprising:

~~a metallic self ligating assembly including an insert and a ligating member movable relative to said insert between an open position in which an archwire is insertable into said archwire slot and a closed position in which the archwire is retained in said archwire slot; and~~

~~a bracket body configured to be mounted to [[a]] the tooth and carrying said metallic self ligating assembly, said bracket body comprising a non-metallic material;~~

a metallic insert mounted in said bracket body, said insert including an archwire slot; and

a metallic ligating member coupled with said insert, said ligating member movable relative to said insert between an open position in which the archwire is insertable into said archwire slot and a closed position in which the archwire is retained in said archwire slot.

29. (Previously Presented) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said non-metallic material is a polymer, a filled polymer composite, or a ceramic.

30. (Previously Presented) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said non-metallic material is sapphire, polycrystalline aluminum oxide, toughened zirconia, or yttrium-stabilized zirconia.

31. (Previously Presented) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said non-metallic material is polycarbonate, an acrylic-based thermoplastic resin, or an acrylic thermoset resin.

32. (Currently Amended) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said insert includes a plurality of walls embedded in said non-metallic material of said bracket body, at least one of said walls of said ~~self ligating~~ insert being wedge-shaped for increasing pull-out resistance of said insert from said bracket body in direction generally perpendicular to the tooth.

33. (Previously Presented) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 further comprising a metallic engagement member capable of constraining movement of said ligating member relative to said bracket body when said ligating member is in the closed position.

34. (Currently Amended) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said ~~self-ligating assembly~~ insert further includes at least one guide, and said ligating member is ~~slidably engaged~~ coupled with said at least one guide for movement relative to said insert.

35. (Currently Amended) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said insert further includes at least one guide and said ligating member is slidably ~~engaged~~ coupled with said at least one guide for movement relative to said insert.

36. (Currently Amended) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 wherein said archwire slot extends in a mesial/distal direction when said bracket body is mounted to the tooth, and said insert further includes a pair of guides spaced apart in the mesial/distal direction, said ligating member having peripheral edges slidably engaged coupled with said guides for movement relative to said insert.

37. (New) The self-ligating orthodontic bracket of claim 28 further comprising:
a metallic spring arm coupled with said bracket body, said spring arm including a detent configured to engage the ligating member in at least said closed position for constraining movement of said ligating slide relative to said bracket body.